

Appl. No. 10/600,402
Amtd. Date Feb. 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Nov. 17, 2003

REMARKS

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-2, 8-12 and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Janninck (US 6,157,545).

In response to this rejection, applicants have added the subject matter of claims 2 and 3 into independent claim 1. Amended independent claim 1 is now submitted to be patentable, because it is the equivalent of claim 3 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants refer to and rely on Examiner's comments under *Allowable Subject Matter* of the Office action.

Claims 4-7 now depend directly or indirectly from amended independent claim 1, are thus also submitted to be patentable.

Applicants have canceled claims 8-10 without prejudice.

Applicants have added the subject matter of claims 12 and 13 into independent claim 11. Amended independent claim 11 is now submitted to be patentable, because it is the equivalent of claim 13 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants refer to and rely on Examiner's comments under *Allowable Subject Matter* of the Office action.

Claims 14-19 now depend directly or indirectly from amended independent claim 11, and are thus submitted to be patentable.

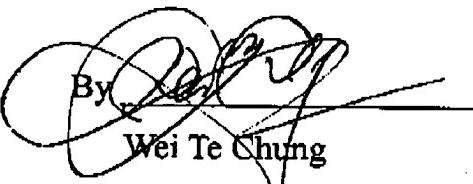
Applicants have canceled claims 20-21 without prejudice.

In view of the foregoing, the subject application as claimed in the pending

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claims is in a condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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